Review of MoU for tourist trains

2914. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 25th March, 1999 under the caption, "Depositors stunned over Sterling Resorts' MoU to run tourist trains";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether, in view of the facts stated in the aforesaid news-item it is proposed to review the MoU signed with Sterling Resorts for running two Deluxe tourist trains; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The MoU is being reviewed.

(d) Does not arise.

Chain pulling in South Central Railway

2915. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that chain pulling incidents are increasing in South Central Railway in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether unauthorised personnel, hawkers and ticketless passengers gain entry at odd hours into compartments;

(c) what are the duties of the Vigilance staff in this regard;

(d) whether any incentives have been offered by South Central Railway for staff who fulfill targets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) some instances have come to notice.

(c) watching of unauthorised entry by hawkers etc. is not the core function of vigilance staff. However, regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments in association with the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police to check the entry and movement of unauthorised hawkers and ticketless travellers etc.

(d) and (e) No incentive is given to the staff for detecting cases of Alarm Chain Pulling. However, an incentive scheme for recognising the good work done by the ticket checking staff is in force on the Railways for detecting cases of ticketless/irregular travelling and unbooked luggage. As per this scheme, 5% of penalty earnings above Rs. 25000/- per month is given to the ticket checking staff.

Harassment to passengers travelling by Rajdhani Express

2916. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British High Commission has recently complained to Government about harassment meted out to British national travelling by Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Guwahati, by certain armed persons having no reservation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter and to ensure that persons having no reservation do not disturb and harass genuine passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) An incident of heavily armed bodyguards accompanying Shri Pappu Yadav, ex. M.P. forcibly entering Ist AC coaches of New Delhi—Guwahati Rajdhani Express and occupying berths reserved for other passengers has come to notice. Mr. R.J. Rees, a